



BOROUGH OF WILTON

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S
ANNUAL REPORT
1950**

ANNUAL REPORT, 1950.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BOROUGH.

The Borough of Wilton, lying in a valley at the confluence of the rivers Nadder and Wylye, is one of great antiquity, being granted its first charter in 1,100 A.D. It is a small town, the development of which has spread in many directions due to the low lying land, adjacent to the two rivers, which is liable to flooding.

Being an old town, many of the houses are old, inconvenient, and very closely crowded together, falling well below modern standards of housing although not in the category of slum property.

Wilton is a small industrial and market centre and located within the Borough are the Headquarters of the Southern Command. The main industries in the Borough are carpet weaving, felt manufacture and agricultural engineering. In addition to these industries, which employ the majority of the working population of the town, other employment is found in the local shops, on the railways, in the City of Salisbury, or at the Southern Command Headquarters.

Population, Total - 3,340.

Acreage, 2,681.

Number of inhabited houses, 834

Number of council houses, 189.

Industries and Trades, Carpet Weaving.

Felt Manufacture.

Agricultural Engineering.

Rateable Value (1st April, 1950) £15,867.

Product of a Penny Rate (approx.) £60.

Highways, Administered by Wilts County Council
(unclassified roads under contract).

Refuse Disposal, by contract.

Sewage Disposal, works outside the Borough.

Water Supply, Public supply from the Corporation's
Waterworks at Ditchampton.

Gas Supply, Southern Gas Board.

Electricity Supply, Southern Electricity Board.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

During the year forty-eight children were born alive ; of these, twenty-five were males and twenty-three females.

There was one illegitimate birth.

Particulars of Births.

Live births	Total	M	F	Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population, 14'4.
Legitimate	47	24	23	
Illegitimate	1	1	0	

Stillbirths	1	1	0
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One stillbirth was registered during the year.

Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths 0.20.

DEATHS.

Twenty-one deaths occurred during the year as follows :

Total	M	F	Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population, 6'3.
21	10	11	

Table comparing births and deaths during the last 30 years showing their effect on the population of the Borough.

Year	Total Births	Total Deaths	Population Gain	Loss
1919	49	37	12	—
1920	53	26	27	—
1921	42	32	10	—
1922	38	33	5	—
1923	42	33	9	—
1924	38	29	9	—
1925	47	34	13	—
1926	31	45	—	14

Year	Total Births	Total Deaths	Population Gain	Population Loss
1927	34	32	2	—
1928	31	33	—	2
1929	24	27	—	3
1930	33	26	7	—
1931	40	32	8	—
1932	30	38	—	8
1933	28	26	2	—
1934	32	35	—	3
1935	35	35	—	—
1936	28	29	—	1
1937	27	31	—	4
1938	31	32	—	1
1945	40	35	5	—
1946	46	31	15	—
1947	44	40	4	—
1948	34	39	—	5
1949	39	30	9	—
1950	48	21	27	—

Causes of Death.	1945	'46	'47	'48	'49	'50
Diabetes	... 0	0	0	1	0	0
Premature births	... 0	2	0	0	2	0
Congenital Malformations	0	1	1	1	0	0
Malignant Disease	... 3	2	6	5	3	3
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	2	3	6	6	1	3
Heart Disease	... 19	11	7	10	5	10
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	1	1	2	3	2
Digestive Diseases	... 0	0	4	1	1	
Bronchitis	... 1	1	3	5	3	0
Pneumonia	... 1	1	0	1	1	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	0	1	1	0	
Tuberculosis (all forms)	... 1	1	0	0	4	0
Nephritis	... 1	1	3	1	1	0
Other causes	... 5	5	8	3	3	1
Road Traffic Accident	... 0	1	0	0	1	1
Influenza	... 0	0	0	2	2	0

Deaths from Puerperal causes.		Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births
	Deaths	
Puerperal Sepsis	...	0
Other Puerperal causes	..	0
Total	...	0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—

Number of deaths	...	...	0.0
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	..	0.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			0.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			0.0

General Statement on Vital Statistics.

The death rate for 1950 was 6.28 per 1,000. This is 5.5 per 1,000 less than the previous year's rate. The death rate for England and Wales for 1950 was 11.6 per 1,000.

The birth rate, 14.4 per 1,000, shows a rise on the previous year's, being an increase of 3.7 per 1,000 on the rate for 1949. It is 1.4 per 1,000 less than the birth rate for England and Wales.

The death rate shows a marked fall on those of many previous years, and is much under the rate for England and Wales. There were no fatal maternity cases or deaths associated with child-birth.

The birth rate, whilst showing a rise of 3.7 on that of the previous year, is still below that for England and Wales.

No serious cases of infectious disease were notified during the year. No deaths occurred from Tuberculosis.

Comparison of deaths from malignant disease (Cancer etc.) with deaths from all causes:—

Year	Deaths from malignant causes	Deaths from all causes	Year	Deaths from malignant causes	Deaths from all causes
1931	4	32	1938	1	32
1932	5	38	1945	3	35
1933	3	26	1946	2	31
1934	4	32	1947	6	40
1935	2	35	1948	5	39
1936	4	29	1949	3	30
1937	4	31	1950	3	20

General Provision of HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH

The Medical Officer of Health spends his whole time in Public Health work, being Medical Officer of Health for the neighbouring rural district of Salisbury and Wilton and also of Mere and Tisbury rural district.

His qualifications are Bachelor of Science (Honours degree), Bachelor of Medicine and of Surgery, Diploma of Public Health of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, England, Certificates of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, London, etc.

There is a qualified Sanitary Inspector who is engaged full time in the Borough. He also holds the office of Surveyor.

Contribution to these two officers' salaries is made under the Public Health Acts.

During the year Dr. Lane continued to act as Medical Officer to the Infant Welfare and Antenatal Clinic.

There is one midwife who devotes the whole of her time to the Borough. She also acts as school nurse.

Home nursing is not yet specially catered for beyond the amount given by the nurse mentioned above.

Hospital Service available for the Area.

- (1) *Infectious Fevers.* Isolation Hospital, Old Sarum.
- (2) *General Cases.* General Infirmary, Salisbury.
Odstock Hospital, Salisbury.
- (3) *Children.* Various Homes under supervision of the County Council,
- (4) *Maternity.* Beds are available at Salisbury Infirmary.
- (5) *Venereal Disease.* Salisbury Infirmary Clinic.

- (6) *Tuberculosis.* Winsley Sanatorium and Harnwood Hospital take the majority of cases ; beds are also to be had through the County Council at Savernake and at Alton, or at Bath Orthopædic Hospital.
- (7) *Chronic Sick.* Provision is arranged for these in Tower House, etc.
- (8) *Orthopædic.* Bath Orthopædic Hospital.
- (9) *Mental Cases.* Special schools outside the County, or other County Institutions through the County Council. There is now more adequate provision within the County boundaries.
- (10) { *Puerperal Fever*
Puerperal Pyrexia
Ophthalmia Neonatorum } Arrangements are made and consultations offered by the County Council.
- (11) *Ear, Nose and Throat cases.* Salisbury Infirmary.

Hospital Service as a whole.

There are no hospitals or nursing homes in the Area itself, and none are considered necessary, the present arrangements being satisfactory and the area well served. Full advantage is taken of Hospital treatment.

Salisbury Infirmary is equipped to deal with operative cases, and contains an up-to-date pathological laboratory.

There is no maternity or nursing home in the Area.

The maternal mortality is, as it was last year, nil.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

(1) *Infant Welfare.* A centre is provided by a local committee which is sponsored by the County Council. Antenatal work is also carried out.

(2) *Other Clinics.* There are in Salisbury available for and used by this district, a Tuberculosis Dispensary Venereal Diseases Clinic, and an Orthopædic Centre, provided by the County Council.

There is no school clinic for the District, neither are there day nurseries or light clinics.

Ambulance Service.

The Ambulance Service is provided by the St. John Ambulance Association under the direction of the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities.

Examination of water samples and swabs, etc., is carried out at the Pathological Laboratory in Salisbury Infirmary free of cost to the Council. The service is very satisfactory.

Care of Aged.

The National Assistance Act lays responsibility for provision of institutional care of the aged on the County Council. Accommodation is offered in Salisbury for the Southern Area at Tower House. This institution has been re-planned and made more homely for the old people. Whilst this is a satisfactory improvement as far as it goes, yet it cannot compare with the policy of giving the old people apartments of their own while also having supervision and care.

Removal to Institution of Aged and Feeble in need of care.

That section of the above mentioned Act making provision for the compulsory removal of feeble and aged people for various reasons to an institution is naturally a worrying one, and the procedure complicated and lengthy. The duty of Certification of the necessity of such removal lies with the Medical Officer of Health of the district concerned. No action has been necessary during the year.

Burial of the Dead.

Responsibility for the burial of the dead in cases where no provision has been made or can be made by any other authority or person lies with the Sanitary Authority. No action has had to be taken in 1949.

Notifications of Infectious Disease to the County Council.

Copies of all notifications of disease received are forwarded to the County Council within 12 hours of receipt. In return for this the County Council pay a notification fee which equals that paid by the Borough Council to the Doctor concerned.

Legislation in force in the Area.

There are bye-laws with respect to Cleansing of Foot, ways and Pavements, Cleansing of Earth-closets, Privies, Ashpits and Cesspools ; for dealing with nuisances from snow, filth, keeping of animals, slaughterhouses ; and regarding cemetery management, dating from 29th April, 1891.

Building bye-laws were adopted 27th August, 1924.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES of the Area.

Water Supply.

The Borough has an adequate supply of pure and wholesome water piped throughout the district. The source is a shallow well, situated at Ditchampton, from which it is pumped to a covered service reservoir, constant care is taken to guard against possible sources of pollution, and it will be seen from the following summary of bacteriological examinations of samples of the water that the results are almost invariably highly satisfactory. Prior to being pumped to the service reservoir the whole of the supply is subjected to chlorination.

As mentioned in my report for 1949, as a further precaution the Council decided to purchase an area of land West of the Waterworks in order that the risks of possible pollution may be further reduced, but at the time of writing this land has not yet been acquired.

It is a hard water — total hardness 22·8, temporary hardness 15·7, permanent hardness 7·1 —thus there is no fear of plumbosolvent action.

Regular samples of both treated and untreated water are taken for bacteriological examination as is shown in the table below.

Bacteriological Examination of Water Supply.

Date sample taken	Taken from	Pathologist's Report
13th January	House Tap	No evidence of pollution
13th January	Waterworks	No evidence of pollution
14th February	House Tap	No evidence of pollution
14th February	Waterworks	No evidence of pollution
13th March	House Tap	No evidence of pollution
13th March	Waterworks	No evidence of pollution
12th April	House Tap	No evidence of pollution
12th April	Waterworks	No evidence of pollution

17th May	House Tap	No evidence of pollution
17th May	Waterworks	No evidence of pollution
13th June	House Tap	No evidence of pollution
13th June	Waterworks	No evidence of pollution
12th July	House Tap	No evidence of pollution
12th July	Waterworks	No evidence of pollution
11th August	House Tap	No evidence of pollution
11th August	Waterworks	No evidence of pollution
11th September	House Tap	No evidence of pollution
11th September	Waterworks	No evidence of pollution
17th October	House Tap	No evidence of pollution
17th October	Waterworks	Minimal pollution with non-fæcal coliform organisms
14th November	House Tap	No evidence of pollution
14th November	Waterworks	No evidence of pollution
6th December	House Tap	No evidence of pollution
6th December	Waterworks	No evidence of pollution

Chemical Analysis of Water Supply.

Sample taken on 12th April, 1950.

Physical characters—Excellent.

	Parts per 100,000		
Reaction	...	Alkaline p.h....	7·3
Saline and Free Ammonia	—
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia	—
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 27° C.	0·056
Chlorides	1·3
Nitrogen as nitrates	0·25
Total Hardness	22·8
(a) Temporary	15·7
(b) Permanent	7·1
Poisonous Metals	—
Nitrites	—
Microscopical examination of the sediment	—

823 dwelling-houses with a population of 2,498 are supplied from the public water mains direct to the houses, and 11 dwelling-houses with a population of 51 are supplied by means of stand-pipes.

Closet Accommodation.

The water carriage system is in operation in nearly all the closets in Wilton, but there are still a few cases where it is impossible to connect to the sewer.

Public Cleansing and Refuse Removal.

The cleansing and repair of public highways and foot-paths is carried out by the County Council by contract. The work on the whole is carried out in an efficient manner, and minor complaints are usually arranged amicably with the local county surveyor.

There is a weekly collection of house refuse in the Borough, undertaken by a private contractor who has served the Borough very satisfactorily for many years. He is properly equipped with modern refuse collection vehicles. Minor complaints arise from time to time, but on investigation these are seldom found to be the fault of the contractor.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.

Two cases of river pollution were reported during the year, both from factories, neither of which was very serious. One source of pollution has been greatly improved and the other one, it is understood, is to be dealt with shortly. As in previous years, the rivers in the Borough were made very unsightly by the depositing therein of tins and other refuse by a few thoughtless persons. The recent dredging of the river Wylfe by the Recreation Ground has not only greatly improved the appearance of the river at that point, but has lowered the water level generally through the town and greatly reduced the risk of flooding in the lower part of the town.

A certain amount of nuisance was caused by the failure to cut the weeds growing in some parts of the rivers in the town and it is hoped that more attention will be given to this matter in future years.

During 1950 the responsibility for the rivers in the Borough passed from the Avon and Stour Catchment Board to the newly constituted Avon and Dorset Rivers Board, who also took over the responsibilities of the County Council in respect of river pollution.

Eradication of Insect Pests.

These pests are extremely rare in the Borough.

The Borough has so far been extremely fortunate in the class of tenant occupying the Council Houses, and very little trouble has been experienced with insect pests of any kind.

Smoke Abatement.

No action has been necessary this year.

Sewers.

Practically all the houses in the Borough are connected to the sewage system, which is a partially separate one, most of the rain water being disposed of by other means. As reported last year, the sewage system gives rise to anxiety, and the position continues to grow more acute as time goes on and no steps are taken to remedy it. Silting continues to increase in many parts of the system, resulting in reduction of the available cross sectional area for the passage of sewage.

Blockages of the sewers are consequently occurring more frequently and becoming more difficult to release owing to the resistance of the silt. This means that it is not possible to release the blockage by the usual methods of rodding, but other and more expensive means have to be employed. Fortunately, so far it has not been found necessary, except in one case, to break down to the sewer to clear the blockage. Owing to the inconvenience caused to the householders, the avoidable expense and the possibility of danger to health of the public and other unpleasant consequences, it is hoped that a scheme will be prepared, approved and put in hand without further delay.

Wilton last year paid to Salisbury City Council a large sum of money for the disposal of sewage, the greater part of which was sub-soil water which had gained access to the sewers. For the above annual payment Wilton could nearly provide and maintain a sewage disposal works of its own.

Recreation Facilities.

The Council possess a Recreation Ground of some $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres, laid out to include tennis courts, a bowling green, children's playground and a flower garden. No facilities exist at the moment for playing organised games such as football or cricket.

FOOD HYGIENE.

Inspection of meat and other foods.

The policy of centralised slaughtering adopted during the war is still continued, so that there has been no slaughter of animals for food in the Borough. The meat in butchers' shops is, of course, liable to inspection, as are all other foods offered for sale. During the year a quantity of varied foods had to be condemned for various reasons, as shown in the table below.

Canned Vegetables	28 lbs	Custard Powder	1 lb
Canned Fruit	206½ lbs	Home Killed Meat	11 lbs
Cereals	22 lbs	Canned Meat	47 lbs
Jam	3 lbs	Bacon	6¾ lbs
Evaporated Milk	32 tins	Soup	1 tin
Dried Fruit	1 lb	Canned Fish	3 lbs
Cake	3 lbs	Salad Cream	1 bottle
Chocolate	3 lbs		

Total weight of foodstuffs condemned during year 368 lbs.

Food Shops.

Below is given a list of retail food premises within the Borough.

Grocery Stores	...	7	Cafes	...	...	4
Greengrocery Stores	...	4	Fresh and Fried Fish			2
Butchers	...	4	General Stores	...		2
Bakers	...	3	Hotels and Public			
Ice Cream	...	9	Houses			8

All these premises are regularly inspected and are generally kept in a satisfactory condition. New sanitary accommodation and washing facilities have been provided at one of the grocery stores.

No ice cream is manufactured in Wilton, and at all premises where it is offered for sale, conditions are generally satisfactory.

Byelaws 1949.

The Council have not yet adopted byelaws for the clean handling of food for human consumption, made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

These byelaws have been adopted by practically every local authority in the Country. Steps should be taken to bring them into operation in the Borough in order that the Council's Public Health Officers may be fully empowered to take action where the handling or exposure of food-stuffs is such as to warrant action being taken.

Milk Supply to Borough.

The whole of the milk supplied in the Borough is from Tuberculin Tested herds and was generally very satisfactory.

The control of milk production on the farms is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

FACTORY ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Within the Borough there are 19 factories with power and 9 without.

Periodical inspections are made of all factories and the conditions are generally found to be satisfactory.

One outworker was notified as being employed within the Borough and no un-notified workers were discovered.

Factories - Premises.

	No. on register	No of inspections	No. of written notices	No. of occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities	7	12	—	—
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities ...	20	26	1	—
Other premises under the Act (excluding out - workers' premises)	2	2	—	—
Total	29	40	1	—

Factories - Defects.

Number of cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness ...	2	2	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation ...	1	1	—	—	—
Total ...	3	3	—	—	—

HOUSING.

Compared with the marked improvement in the housing position in the Borough during 1949, when 36 houses were completed, the progress this year has not been good. During 1950 13 houses were completed and occupied, but the list of applicants increased by over 40 to 217. Whilst it is appreciated that bad weather and the present day shortages of labour and materials have played their part in delaying the completion of houses, it is obvious that much better progress could be made in the housing programme if the Council were to plan for two or three years ahead in order that there would not be the very long delay between the time the Ministry make an allocation of houses to the Council and the time when construction commences.

For example, in September, 1949, an allocation of eight houses was made by the Ministry, and now, in May, 1951, almost two years later, four of those houses are under construction and four are not yet started. Delays such as this will be reflected in future allocations made to the Council by the Ministry, whose present policy is to make larger allocations to those Councils who show the most progress and whose housing needs are the greatest.

Once again there has been a sharp rise in the cost of house building, and to meet this it seems inevitable that there will have to be an increase in the rents of the houses, which will put them out of the reach of many deserving people unless the Council adopt the policy advocated in the 1949 report of building smaller houses of a modern standard, a policy which has recently been recommended to local authorities by the Ministry of Local Government and Planning. The four two-bedroomed bungalows completed at the end of 1950 offer all the accommodation required by the greater majority of all the applicants for council houses, and were much more quickly and economically constructed. In contrast, some of the houses the Council are shortly to build on the Grovely Down estate are larger than any that have yet been built there.

During 1950 the first steps were taken by the Council towards acquiring a future housing site which would be of a size sufficient for the requirements of the Council's housing programme for a number of years. The Council are to be congratulated upon choosing the site in Burcombe Lane, which is admirable in every way. In contrast to the present housing site in Wishford Road, the land adjoining South Hill will make an ideal housing site in every respect, and should be capable of quick and economical development. It is also proposed to develop the site in conjunction with the Military Authorities (who wish to erect a number of dwelling houses for officers) and to lay out part of the site for private development. Such joint development of the area will not only lead to much better planning and lay-out of the site, but will result in a great saving in the cost of the provision of the sewer, water and other services.

A little progress can be reported in the development of Fancy Row as a Housing Site. Negotiations with the owner for the acquisition of the site are completed and the Ministry has given approval in principle for its development. The Council have instructed an architect to prepare a scheme for the development of the area. It is to be hoped that the scheme will be quickly proceeded with and the demolition of the derelict houses now on the site, which are an eyesore and rapidly becoming dangerous, completed.

Housing Act, 1949.

One application was received under this Act to have quashed a demolition order made on a cottage at Water Ditchampton, the cottage having been greatly improved and put in a good state of repair by the present owner. The application was supported by the Council and was granted by the Court.

No applications were received by the Council during 1950 for financial grants for the improvement of property which, under certain conditions, the Council are empowered to make.

No major works of improvement were carried out on Council houses for which the Council are entitled to claim Exchequer grants.

Council Houses—Maintenance.

The following work has been carried out on existing Council houses during the year by the Council's own employees:—

Doors repaired	19	Fire-ranges repaired	
Ceilings repaired	8	or renewed	16
Sinks and waste pipes		Walls repaired	12
repaired or renewed	17	Gutters repaired	8
Roofs repaired	14	Blocked drains released	8
W.C's repaired	17	Chimneys repaired	4
Windows repaired	8	Paths repaired	9
Coppers repaired or		Draining boards	
renewed	32	renewed	16
Baths repaired	4	Drains repaired	6
		Floors repaired	7

Housing Act, 1936 - 1949.

Statement of work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1950, under the above Acts in the Borough of Wilton.

- I. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :*
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 97
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 155
 - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 0
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 0
 - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 1
 - (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 22
2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 21
3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :*
 - A. Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 3
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :
 - (a) by Owners 3
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of Owners 0
 - B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 0

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
- (a) by Owners ①
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of Owners ①
- C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ①
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ①
- D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ①
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ①

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.*

Owing to the movement of the population during recent years it is not possible to give a true figure as to the extent of overcrowding now existing within the Borough. A survey was, however, made of the Council houses and it was ascertained that whilst comparatively few houses were statutorily overcrowded, quite a number had sufficient occupants to render the arrangement of sleeping accommodation difficult whilst not contravening the Act.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Once again Wilton has been fortunate to be remarkably free from notifiable diseases. The only cases of infectious diseases which were notified during the whole of 1950 were 2 of whooping cough and 3 of measles. As in the last few years not a single case of diphtheria occurred within the Borough, which must give further proof of the success accompanying the immunising of children against the disease. Immunisation is carried out by the Wiltshire County Council.

Diseases	Wilton Borough	
	Cases Notified	Deaths
Typhoid fever ...	... 0	0
Paratyphoid fever	... 0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	... 0	0
Scarlet fever ...	... 0	0
Whooping Cough	... 2	0
Diphtheria ...	... 0	0
Erysipelas ...	... 0	0
Smallpox ...	... 0	0
Measles ...	... 3	0
Pneumonia ...	... 0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis and Acute Polioencephalitis	0	0
Food Poisoning	... 0	0

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates
for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1950. Figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.B's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (resident population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Admin. County
Rates per 1,000 Home Population.				
Births				
Live births	...	15.8	17.6	17.8
Still births	...	0.37	0.45	0.36
Deaths				
All Causes	...	11.6	12.3	11.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough...	...	0.01	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	...	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	...	0.36	0.42	0.39
Influenza	...	0.10	0.09	0.07
Smallpox	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	...	0.02	0.02	0.01
Pneumonia	...	0.46	0.49	0.48

Notifications (Corrected)

Typhoid Fever ...	0 00	0 00	0 01
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0 01	0 01	0 01
Meningococcal infection ...	0 03	0 03	0 03
Scarlet Fever ...	1 50	1 56	1 23
Whooping Cough...	3 60	3 97	3 21
Diphtheria ...	0 02	0 03	0 03
Erysipelas ...	0 17	0 19	0 17
Smallpox ...	0 00	0 00	—
Measles ...	8 39	8 76	6 57
Pneumonia ...	0 70	0 77	0 50
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis) —Paralytic	0 13	0 12	0 08
Non-paralytic	0 05	0 05	0 05
Food Poisoning ...	0 17	0 16	0 25

Deaths.

Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

All causes under one year of age	29 8 (a)	33 8	29 4	26 3
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	...	1 9	2 2	1 0

Notifications (Corrected)

Rates per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	5 81	7 43	4 33	6 03
(a) Per 1,000 related live births.				

The Maternal Mortality in the Borough was nil.

General Facilities for Treatment

in cases of Infectious Diseases.

Cases of Infectious diseases from this district go to the Isolation Hospital at Old Sarum. The hospital is a good one, admirably run, and has served this and other districts for many years now in an efficient and entirely satisfactory manner.

The demand for accommodation varies of necessity from time to time, but up to date no case of infectious disease urgently requiring accommodation has had to be refused admission.

From this district we send as a rule all cases of diphtheria, nearly all cases of scarlet fever, and in addition any complicated case of any other infectious disease needing special nursing, or where the medical attendant is satisfied that home conditions are such as to render the spread of the disease more likely, or retard or endanger the chance of recovery of the patient. No one had to be sent in under the latter heading this year.

Cases are sent in within a few hours of diagnosis which no doubt has helped us in the past to maintain our very satisfactory record in regard to secondary cases. Cases are sent in by ambulance and if necessary arrangements can be made for return by ambulance. Private arrangements are however made for return in most cases. An investigation of the premises and disinfection take place in infectious diseases such as, diphtheria, scarlet fever, tuberculosis, etc. Bedding, etc., is put through the steam disinfectors in the case of scarlet fever and tuberculosis.

Food Poisoning.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

Prevention of Tuberculosis and Blindness.

No action was necessary under regulations governing the employment of persons in the milk trade who were suffering from tuberculosis, nor for the prevention of blindness.

Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis comes under the control of the County Council who hold regular clinics in Salisbury for this area. No deaths occurred from the disease this year,

G. NAPIER.

Medical Officer of Health.

